

# Cleanup Procedure for Biomaterials Spill outside a BSC

**Personal protective equipment for spill cleanup should include:  
2 pairs fluid-resistant disposable gloves, safety glasses, shoe covers and a lab coat!**

1. Step back from the spill zone at least 2 steps, then examine your feet. If your shoes are visibly contaminated, or there is visible spill contamination where you are standing, your shoes need to be considered part of the “spill” and decontaminate or discard as appropriate.
2. Notify others in the lab of the event and have someone post the lab as “do not enter”.
3. When spills occur in the open lab, the best response is carried out by a small team, not an individual. Have one person perform cleanup-others should retrieve supplies & reviews procedure.
4. When treating the spill area, go at least 3 feet beyond the visible contamination area; don't forget walls and anything that was within the “splash zone”.

**If a spill occurs in a public area, the following basics apply:**

1. Stay with the spill and keep others away from it. Send someone to the lab to retrieve spill response supplies and LAB SUPERVISOR or PI if feasible.
2. Contact your institution's Biosafety team (see contact table on back of procedure card) for assistance with spill and scene management.

**Spills & exposure incidents must be reported!**

- Report all spills to LAB SUPERVISOR. †
- If any biological material from the lab enters your body through:
  - A break in the skin or
  - Contact with your eyes, nose or mouth**YOU MUST FLUSH, FLUSH, FLUSH!... get to the sink and flush the exposure site for 15 minutes with water! Soap and water should be used if the exposure involved broken skin.**

After flushing the exposure site, you must report to Occupational Health (or Adult Emergency if outside routine business hours and exposure involved human or non-human primate derived materials) for post-exposure follow-up. Then, notify the LAB SUPERVISOR/PI and report the exposure through your institution's risk management portal (see contact table on back of card).

## The 1-2-3 for Spill Cleanup



1. **Remove the breached container.** If breached container was glass, use tongs or disposable broom/dustpan. Place glass in sharps container for disposal. If container was not glass, place it in a biohazard bag for disposal or appropriate secondary container.
2. **Treat, absorb and remove the spill contamination.** Cover spill with disinfectant saturated towel and allow to treat spill for several minutes. Absorb and remove spill contamination. Place absorbed spill materials and associated wastes in biohazard bag. Repeat this process if any evidence of contamination is still remaining.
3. **Disinfect all impacted surfaces.** Apply disinfectant to all surfaces impacted by the spill (including those in the “splash zone”); wait the prescribed contact time before removing disinfectant residues. **Use care to limit contact with contaminated surfaces when removing PPE! Place all used spill response materials (including mechanical tools and disposable PPE) in the biohazard bag for treatment as biohazardous waste.**

**†NOTE:** Report to the Biosafety Officer as soon as possible if a biological material spill 1) occurs outside the lab, 2) occurs inside processing equipment (e.g., shakers, centrifuges), or 3) results in a biomaterials exposure incident.

## BIOMATERIAL SPILL & EXPOSURE RESPONSE – INSTITUTIONAL CONTACTS

For biomaterials post-exposure evaluation, regardless of your institutional affiliation or position:

- Report to the **Vanderbilt Occupation Health Clinic** at Suite 640 in the Medical Arts Buildings during normal business hours (M-F, 7 am to 4:30 pm). Phone: 615-936-0955.
- Report to **Vanderbilt Adult Emergency Room** for follow-up on weekends or outside of normal business hours.

<b>Vanderbilt University</b> (PI's primary appointment is a VU department)	<b>Vanderbilt University Medical Center</b> (PI's primary appointment is a VUMC department)
<b><u>Biosafety Team</u></b> Business hours response: 615-343-8918 <b>After hours/rapid response: 615-762-0121</b> Team contact: <a href="mailto:VUBiosafety@vanderbilt.edu">VUBiosafety@vanderbilt.edu</a>	<b><u>Biosafety Team</u></b> Business hours response: 615-322-2057 <b>After hours/rapid response: 615-875-3779</b> Team contact: <a href="mailto:Biosafety@vumc.org">Biosafety@vumc.org</a>
 <b>VU Risk Management – Origami event reporting</b> <a href="http://www.vanderbilt.edu/riskmanagement/">www.vanderbilt.edu/riskmanagement/</a>	 <b>VUMC Risk Management – Veritas event reporting</b> <a href="https://veritas.app.vumc.org">https://veritas.app.vumc.org</a>

12.2023